

Seen this plant? Mexican Poppy

Argemone ochroleuca subsp. ochroleuca



How does this weed affect us?

Mexican Poppy is currently regulated under the general biosecurity duty, requiring persons to prevent, eliminate and minimise any biosecurity threat posed.

It is commonly found along roadsides surviving in the driest places and flourishing during drought conditions, given to forming dense populations. Primarily problematic for cropping systems as the toxic seeds contaminate harvestable crops.

- Whole plant and seeds are poisonous to humans and livestock, containing six toxic alkaloids.
- Spines are present on leaves and stems that can cause injury. Large infestations impede livestock movement.
- Spreads via contaminated vehicles, soil, fodder and animals.

Seen it? Call us:

**Cootamundra-Gundagai
Biosecurity Officer:**

1300 459 689

**NSW DPI Biosecurity
Helpline:**

1800 680 244

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW
WeedWise: weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/MexicanPoppy



Where are you likely to find it?

Mexican poppy has been found in every state of Australia. Now well established throughout various inland river systems of Central Australia. In New South Wales being found in the far western parts through to the coast, prevalent in sub-coastal regions. It is currently in low numbers within the Cootamundra-Gundagai region.



Regional Recommended Measure
“prevent, eliminate and minimise“

What does it look like?

Mexican poppy is an erect annual herb growing up to 1.5 m. Under normal seasonal conditions young plants form a rosette during winter and produce flowering stems during spring. Mature seeds remain dormant for up to three months after being shed from the fruit capsule and can remain viable for several years.

- Leaves are alternate, lobed and up to 12 cm long, bluish green or greyish green with white mottling and have small spines at the end of each lobe.
- Spines are approximately 2 cm long, found on stems, leaves and fruit capsules.
- A single flower is located at the end of branchlets. Each having six petals that are cream to pale yellow 3 - 7 cm in diameter whilst the stigmas are purple.
- The capsule is an oval or oblong shaped capsule 2 - 4 cm long, with numerous spines, opening at the top to expose seeds. Each fruit capsule contains up to 400 seeds that are brown or black, globular in shape and 1.5 mm in diameter.



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